

Give a Gift to New York Lakes

November 17, 2016

Dear Members of NYSFOLA,

Imagine a world where nearly all lakes are overrun by aquatic invasive species or where swimming is impossible because of harmful algal blooms. Sadly, this is becoming more of a reality for many of our lakes, and those that have escaped degradation, struggle to ward off the ever increasing threats to water quality. ***We must have a stronger voice than ever before to protect our lakes!*** NYSFOLA can be that voice if we all work together. Won't you be a part of that voice and support NYSFOLA?

NYSFOLA has been a statewide voice for lakes since 1983, and we remain more committed to our membership than ever before, but dues alone do not cover our costs. Through this newsletter as well as our four conferences, you have learned what we've done and how we are doing it. We have submitted comments on proposed regulations, written letters to policy makers, supported our members and colleagues in the development of grant applications, provided answers to your lake related questions, and provided educational information to lakes in NY and around the world, through our affiliation with the North American Lake Management Society.

What do we want to do in 2017?

- Enhance CSLAP by eliminating the rotation system and providing more opportunity for aquatic invasive species surveys, data interpretation, and communication with volunteers. We continue to support DEC in the effort to detect, sample, and alert our members about Harmful Algal Blooms.
- Upgrade the NYSFOLA Annual Conference. We are working on a new format this year. We have moved the banquet to Friday night to increase attendance and will end the conference on Saturday afternoon to reduce costs and allow people to head home earlier. We hope that the new format will also allow us to look for other venues around the state to increase participation by new members.
- Continue to support the Oneonta Foundation to fund graduate students in their efforts to prepare lake management plans for lakes across the state. They have provided valuable assistance to many of our members, and they are the future of lake management.
- Develop better materials on how to form and manage lake associations, fundraising activities, membership recruitment, etc. In short, we need to do even more for our member lake associations!
- Continue to answer your questions and concerns even as more time constraints are put on our part-time manager, Nancy Mueller who is also charged with running the day-to-day CSLAP needs. She continues to be the day-to-day voice of NYSFOLA and provides immeasurable service to lake advocates around the state.
- Participate in regional activities and "be the voice for NY lakes" by having a greater statewide presence. Increasingly, NYSFOLA is being asked to enter in collaborative projects with colleges, regional lake groups, and the PRISM activities. This raises our profile and makes our "voice" louder than ever.
- Continue to impress upon elected officials the need to protect water resources. Continue dialogue with regulatory agencies about the need to prepare and implement thoughtful regulations and permit requirements.

This is a lot to do with an all-volunteer Board of Directors and one staff person. But we have the passion to serve you, our customers, and to fulfill our shared mission. Won't you help us? There are many worthy causes, but if we don't speak out for New York state lakes, who will? In your consideration of year end giving, please consider making a gift to New York lakes through a generous contribution to NYSFOLA. We are the statewide voice for New York lakes. We need to be heard louder than ever before.

Thank you for your continued support.

The NYSFOLA Board of Directors

NYSFOLA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Your contribution may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. NYSFOLA is registered with the NYS Attorney General Charities Bureau 120 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10271.. A copy of our latest annual financial report is available at www.nysfola.org or by contacting NYSFOLA P.O. Box 84 LaFayette, NY 13084.